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Massachusetts is chairman. He is obliged to be absent from the city from the 16th inst. until the 20th, so that it is impracticable to arrange for a hearing until after the 26th, when it will be heard at any time agreeable to the interested parties. I have had a communication from the chairman of the game and fisheries commission of Massachusetts that a committee will come on under the auspices of the state to present the case. This is the way to do the business. I shall write to the chairman directly, informing him of the situation, and I suppose you will consult with him in reference to the date desired.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Q. Tirrell.

Mr. McIntire is very much pleased at the prospect of having a hearing on the matter, as it is something for which he has worked very hard, having been in constant correspondence with congressmen on the matter for the past two months.

While in the state legislature in 1904, he introduced a resolve, to the effect that Massachusetts was in favor of a bounty of dogfish. Finding it necessary to have facts and figures to present, he last year secured the passage of a resolve, authorizing an expenditure of \$2000 by the Massachusetts fish and game commission in preparing a report of the damage caused to the fisheries of Massachusetts by dogfish, and which report, covering some 75 pages, was recently printed, a resume of the same being published exclusively in the TIMES of last Thursday.

Mr. McIntire has assisted the board in making the report by collecting considerable data. He has made a careful study of the dogfish matter and his probable selection as one of the committee to represent the state at the coming hearing is a wise one.

Halibut Sale.

The fare of sch. Kineo sold to the American Halibut Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 6 1-2 cents for gray.

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THE DOGFISH PEST.

Reports of Captains and Others on Depredations.

Commission Received 195 Reports From This City.

Number One.

In order that its research and report on the damage caused by dogfish to the fisheries of Massachusetts should be as thorough as possible and that facts should come direct from the men affected by these pests, the Massachusetts fish and game commission sent out circulars to the captains of fishing vessels and boat fishermen, as well as trap and weir men along the coast, which were taken to these men personally by special agents of the commission. From this, 584 replies were received and at the end of each circular was a space for remarks in general regarding the pests. Of these reports received, 195 were from this city, and believing them of considerable importance and interest, the TIMES will print a portion each day until all have been given to our readers.

The reports follow:

It is almost impossible to fish with trawls or nets in Ipswich or Massachusetts bays during the summer months on account of dogfish.—Elbridge Woodbury, Lanesville, sch. Charles A. Dyer.

Have not been able to fish for food fish other than lobsters during the past five years during the summer months. Catch dogfish in lobster pots occasionally.—Albert J. Griffin, Lanesville, gasoline dory Alice, two men.

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Have been fishing for dogfish off and on for about two or three years, and could not make a success.—George Harriden, Lanesville, sally dory, one man.

We could not fish with any success in June and July with trawls, or hand line in August, dogfish were so plenty. Tried to set out trawls about two weeks ago, and got dogfish on every other hook, and had to give up.—Frank Wetzel, Lanesville, sloop Fussy, one to three men.

In August, 1904, we went fishing expressly for dogfish; we were gone three weeks, and secured 60 barrels of liver, realizing \$180 for same, and shared \$30 each. It was hard work and the dogfish were extra large in size,—about 17 to a bucket of livers. It hardly paid us as the expense was very much, and if the dogfish were of average size or smaller, we would have had a lot of hard work with little pay. In 1902 we went over to Ipswich river after herring, and dogfish were so plenty they destroyed our nets. Dogfish were never known to be found in this river before, to my knowledge. They come earlier each year.—Benjamin Bowden, Lanesville, sch. Venus, four to six men.

We go south netting mackerel every spring in April, and sometimes we strike dogfish as soon as we get on the fishing grounds, we always find them soon after; and from then until we return to Gloucester, which is usually about July 1, they are a constant pest. They eat our fish and destroy our nets, and we lose a great amount of time on account of them. They are so plenty in Massachusetts Bay during the summer months that we cannot pursue any fishing except sword-fishing, which we go at until about September 15. Then we go hand-lining for pollock, and are annoyed constantly until November 1, and sometimes later.—John W. Keefe, Gloucester, sloop Diana, six and eight men.

Go hand-lining on Georges all the year. From May until November dogfish are such a pest that we are constantly going from one end of the fishing grounds to the other to get clear of them. They are constantly increasing, and getting more of a pest each year.—Samuel Crittenden, Gloucester, sch. Mattie Winship, 13 men.

Go south every spring netting mackerel, and have to contend with dogfish constantly. Cannot fish for mackerel with nets in Massachusetts Bay during summer months, as dogfish are so numerous.—Robert Robinson, Gloucester, sloop Jack-O'-Lantern, three men.

We fish on the Rips, and dogfish are very plenty there; if we used any bait other than cockles, we could not fish. The past year dogfish are eating cockles more than I ever saw them before, and we caught more. We start pollocking about September 20, and dogfish eat at least one-half our bait, and drive us from the grounds at times. Benjamin Goodwin, Gloucester, sch. Braganza, 17 men.

Started Sept. 10, 1905, to fish for pollock on Jeffrey's. Dogfish were so numerous that if it had not been for another vessel in the vicinity we would have had to return without any fish, as the dogfish ate our hooks off our lines. We had a good supply of hooks. By getting hooks from our neighbor we managed to catch fish enough to pay our expenses. Although we have done fairly well to date, the dogfish have been an awful pest to us, and are more numerous this fall than I ever saw them.—Norman Devine, Gloucester, sch. James A. Garfield, 14 men.

Sometimes when we are setting our trawls we feel the dogfish biting and haul right back to save the gear, and we lose that day's fishing.—Joseph P. Mesquita, Gloucester, sch. Frances P. Mesquita.

Dogfish are constantly increasing, and when there are any mackerel in Massachusetts Bay it is almost impossible to catch them and save them without losing a large quantity. They come earlier and stay later each year.—Alex. McLoud, Gloucester, sch. Leander F. Gould, 14 to 17 men.

About April 10 the past few years dogfish make their appearance on the grounds where we fish, and are a constant pest to us more or less until January 1. They eat our bait, and sometimes before we can get many food fish

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our supply of bait is gone, and we have to return with a small fare. They seem to be getting more numerous each year.—William Sloan, Gloucester, sch. Arthur D. Story, 15 men.

We have to go farther to the eastward each year to get clear of dogfish. When we first went to the eastward there were none there, but the last few years they are getting as plenty there as elsewhere.—James D. Goodwin, Gloucester, sch. Ella G. Goodwin, 22 men.

Have been fishing about Massachusetts Bay for thirty years, and dogfish seem to be getting more numerous each year. They come earlier and stay later each season. In a few years there will be no food fish, if they continue to constantly increase.—George L. Goss, Gloucester, sch. Priscilla, 16 men.

Go seining each year, and have always caught more or less dogfish with mackerel, except this year, 1905. I believe there are more dogfish than ever before, although we have had the good fortune to escape them. A few years ago we had about 100 barrels of mackerel in our seine, and before our vessel got to us the dogfish attacked the fish on the outside and ate twine, so they all escaped but five barrels. Our seine was greatly damaged, so we had to give up the trip and return and get it repaired, at an expense of \$500.—Joseph Smith, Gloucester, sch. Bertha and Pearl, 18 men.

In the years 1899-1901 our floating trap was set at the Breakers, Marblehead. We would get a few dogfish, and they caused serious loss to us of food and bait for fish, besides damaging our trap. Their presence about a trap will keep all other fish away, and when any small fish are meshed in our leader of trap, dogfish will eat them and the twine also.—Thomas Douglass, Gloucester.

Herring Notes.

The Bay of Islands, N. F., Western Star of February 7 has the following items of interest:

"Our Harbor Grace contemporary has fallen away from the path of rectitude, and is following the footsteps of the Herald and Telegram over our herring fishery. Each of these papers has endeavored to throw dust in the eyes of the public by saying that only 11 American vessels came here the past season for herring, "and that their catch was only about one-half of what it was the previous year, while, as regards British-registered vessels, the number and the catch were both three times as great."

"For the information of those belittlers of our herring industry, we would like just to say there were 45 Americans, against 36 vessels of British register, fishing here the past season, and excepting in one or two instances they all secured full fares. And the Americans also owned the cargoes put on board several of the British-registered vessels. The herring cost them no more than in other years, and in some cases cargoes were procured at a lower rate than for many years. Then, who dare say that the Americans did not reap as good a harvest from the late herring fishery, considering the number of vessels engaged, as they did in former years?"

"Last week a report was received of ice being seen off Cape George. This report is false as there has been no ice seen on that part of the coast for the season. The ice in the Gulf is not of great thickness, and there is but a small body of it. The winds and tide have tended to keep it away from this part of our coast, and so far there has been nothing to interrupt navigation as far as Bonne Bay.

"Sch. Meteor, Cap. F. Carter, with herring and codfish, left for Boston on Saturday. Herring still continue plentiful in the North and Middle Arms, and a great many Wood's Island fishermen are yet engaged in the fishery."

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The matter of devising some method of checking the incursions of the dogfish pest has now assumed really serious shape. Through the work of our townsman, Mr. Edwin C. McIntire, who when representative last year secured the passage of a resolve, carrying with it an appropriation of \$2000, the Massachusetts fish and game commission has been enabled to make a careful research, and make a report to the public of the damage caused by these predatory fish to the fisheries of Massachusetts.

This report is the most important yet published on the subject and brings forcibly to the average mind as never before the fact that the matter is really a serious one and worthy the attention of the wise men of various nations. It must be conceded that heretofore, people in general have rather smiled or laughed at the matter of dogfish legislation, but a careful reading of the report will convince these same people that it is really a subject for most serious consideration.

The commission does not hesitate, after careful study, to say that it is a matter for national consideration, also that the extermination of the dogfish is practically impracticable if not impossible. The commission says that dogfish, as a species, are actually increasing, and that conditions must be developed to make it of pecuniary advantage to the fishermen to market every dogfish caught, and farther than this, that the similar conditions along our coast, with Canada, Newfoundland, England and other countries, makes it of sufficient importance to warrant the deliberations of an international commission to seek some uniform way to control this economic plague.

The commission does not presume to advocate any special plan for checking the incursions of the dogfish, but bids the public of the mistaken idea as to the impossibility of using the fish for food, by saying that from personal experience of its members, it can testify to its satisfactory taste, lack of odor and "strength," and adds that its freedom from bones make it especially safe as a food for children and aged persons. The report of the commission is not to be taken lightly. It represents careful and personal research on the part of men who know about the subject of which they have written.

Whether the authorities at Washington knew in advance of the subject matter of the report is not known, but the matter has evidently taken a strong hold there, for now the committee on merchant marine and fisheries has ordered a hearing on Congressman Terrill's bill for checking the ravages of these pests of the fishing grounds of the North Atlantic. A committee of three will represent Massachusetts at this hearing and undoubtedly all of the subject matter of the commissioners' report will be placed in evidence and beside this, Mr. McIntire, and probably some member of the commission and some other well posted gentlemen will be on hand in person to lay before the committee the seriousness of the situation and the actual necessity of some action in the very near future.

"Dogfish legislation," at first smiled at, has compelled the attention of the Massachusetts legislature; it has brought from the Massachusetts fish and game commission a

very exhaustive and important report; it has been heard in the halls of Congress and there has compelled a hearing. It has passed the short pants age and is now full grown and able to assert something for itself, with facts and figures to back its assertions.

It is the sincere wish of every citizen of Gloucester, as well as of every fisherman along this North Atlantic coast, that this hearing, set down for about March 1, may not be in vain, but that the committee may see the necessity of action, and that, as a result something may be done, some decisive step taken which shall bring before the law makers of the nation the great need of legislation, so that, in the no distant future "dogfish legislation" may stand for a wise

national law regarding the checking of a pest which now literally has the fisheries of the North Atlantic by the throat.

Herring Notes.

Br. sch. Werra, of St. George's Bay, N. F., chartered by Capt. Thome N. Nicholson of Bucksport, sailed from Bay of Islands, N. F., February 4 for this port, with a fare of 800 barrels frozen herring, 100 barrels pickled herring and 25 barrels salt bulk herring.

Last Wednesday the Nova Scotia sch. N. S. Fault and the Bonne Bay sch. Clarissa were still fishing in the Middle Arm. The former vessel will take her cargo of frozen herring to Halifax. Herring were still plentiful.

Sch. M. B. Stetson of Bucksport, Me., which has been at Bay of Islands, N. F., for a cargo of herring, finished loading February 1 and sailed for this port February 3. This is believed to be the latest that an American vessel loaded at Bay of Islands and sailed for home without being frozen in. As little for no ice is now reported in the Gulf, it is probable that she will come along with but little difficulty on that score.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. W. H. Moody, Georges via Portland, 12,000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Muriel, via Boston, 70,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Flirt, via Boston, 55,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Mildred Robinson, via Boston, 85,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Speculator, via Boston, 65,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
Sch. Stranger, shore.
Sch. Catherine D. Enos, shore.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.

Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.
Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.
Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$5 for large, 4.00 for medium.
Salt hake, \$1.25.
Salt haddock, \$1.75.
Salt cusk, \$2.50.
Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.50 for large, \$3.50 for medium, \$2.50 for snappers.
Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, \$4.50 per bbl.
Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, \$5.75 per bbl.
Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.
Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.
Fresh halibut, 10 cents per lb. for white and 6 1-2 cts. for gray.
Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, \$2.25 medium cod, \$1.37 1-2; haddock, 86 cts; hake, 85 cts.; cusk, \$1.40; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch. William A. Morse, 500 haddock, 11,000 cod.
Sch. Ida M. Silva, 5000 haddock, 3000 cod, 5000 hake.
Sch. Ramona, 12,000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 27,000 haddock, 3000 cod.
Sch. Frances V. Silva, 15,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Seacomet, 14,000 haddock, 200 cod.
Sch. Puema, 15,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Mary C. Santos, 23,000 haddock, 3000 cod.
Sch. Mina Swim, 17,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 2500 haddock, 500 cod, 2500 pollock.
Sch. Beulah Maud, 3200 cod.
Sch. Rapidan, 9000 haddock, 4000 cod.
Sch. Yankee, 22,000 cod.
Sch. Mattakesett, 8000 haddock, 2500 cod.
Sch. Valentia, 11,000 cod.
Sch. Margaret Dillon, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 pollock.
Sch. Rose Standish, 30,000 cod.
Sch. Tecumseh, 1000 haddock, 13,000 cod.
Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 7000 haddock, 3000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Speculator, 15,000 haddock, 15,000 cod 4000 hake, 25,000 cusk, 5000 halibut.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod, 800 hake.
Haddock \$1.35 to \$1.50, large cod \$3.75 to \$3.90, market cod \$1.25 to \$1.50, pollock \$3.

ON LEHAVE RIDGES.

Sch. Speculator Got Good Halibut Fishing on Haddock Trawls.

Sch. Speculator, Capt. Roderick McNeil, arrived at Boston yesterday from Le Have Ridges with a good fare of fresh fish and in addition, 6000 pounds of halibut, all taken on the haddock trawls. This is certainly good fishing and shows that there is quite a number of halibut on that ground.

It is quite noticeable that about all the haddockers arriving at Boston recently from the southwest part of Georges have from 500 to 3000 weight of halibut mixed in with their haddock. This is quite unprecedented.

Sch. Mildred Robinson, which arrived at Boston yesterday from the southwest part of Georges had 3000 pounds of halibut with her good fare of haddock.

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THE MAINE FISHERIES.

Interesting Figures from Report of Fish Commissioner.

For the year ending last November 15,093 persons were engaged in the fisheries off the Maine coast, according to statistics made public today by Hon. A. R. Nickerson, commissioner of sea and shore fisheries. They produced a total of 210,435,524 pounds of fish of an aggregate value of \$4,154,115. There was invested \$3,260,834, and the total paid for labor was \$1,855,949.

The figures on the herring fishing are the largest in each case except on the value. There were 7183 persons engaged in this branch, 135,323,350 pounds produced of a value of \$954,681. \$1,689,503 invested and \$1,676,061 paid for labor.

The value of the 11,187,947 pounds of lobsters produced was \$1,394,356, and of the 64,665,070 pounds of ground fish, \$1,176,308.